

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A configurable portable device comprising:
 - 2 a sensing unit configured and arranged to collect biometric data from a user of the portable device;
 - 4 a token producer configured and arranged to produce a user identification token based on the biometric data;
 - 6 an access terminal configured and arranged to transmit the user identification token to a network over a wireless communications link and to receive configuration information corresponding to the user identification token from the network; and
 - 10 configuration information storage configured and arranged to retrievably store the configuration information,
 - 12 wherein a configuration of the portable device is determined at least in part by a portion of the configuration information.
2. The configurable portable device according to claim 1, wherein
 - 2 one among a plurality of number assignment modules of the portable device is selected by the configuration information.
3. A method of configuring a portable device, said method
 - 2 comprising:
 - sensing user-identifying information from a user of the portable device;
 - 4 producing a user identification token based on the user-identifying information;

6 transmitting the user identification token over a wireless communications
link; and

8 receiving a set of configuration information corresponding to the user
identification token.

4. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 3,
2 wherein sensing user-identifying information includes collecting biometric data.

5. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 4,
2 wherein collecting biometric data includes collecting fingerprint data.

6. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 4,
2 wherein collecting biometric data includes collecting voice data.

7. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 3,
2 wherein transmitting the user identification token comprises transmitting the
user identification token over a wireless communications link associated with a
4 cellular network for wireless communications.

8. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 3,
2 further comprising selecting one among a plurality of number assignment
modules of the portable device according to the set of configuration information.

9. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 3,
2 further comprising configuring an operation of the portable device according to
the set of configuration information.

10. A method of configuring a portable device, said method
2 comprising:
receiving a user identification token over a wireless communications link;
4 detecting a correspondence between the user identification token and
one among a plurality of templates;
6 retrieving a set of configuration information that corresponds to the
template; and
8 transmitting at least a portion of the set of configuration information to the
portable device.

11. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 10, wherein the user identification token includes biometric data.

12. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 11, wherein the user identification token includes fingerprint data.

13. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 11, wherein the user identification token includes voice data.

14. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 10, wherein detecting a correspondence between the user identification token

and one among a plurality of templates comprises extracting a set of features
4 from the user identification token.

15. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 10, further comprising receiving a device identification token,
wherein the at least a portion of the set of configuration information
4 corresponds to the device identification token.

16. A configurable portable device comprising:
2 a sensing unit configured and arranged to sense user-specific
information from a user of the portable device;
4 a token producer configured and arranged to produce a user
identification token based on the user-specific information;
6 an access terminal configured and arranged to transmit the user
identification token to a network over a wireless communications link and to
8 receive configuration information corresponding to the user identification token
from the network; and
10 configuration information storage configured and arranged to retrievably
store the configuration information,
12 wherein a user-selectable operation of the portable device is determined
at least in part by a portion of the configuration information.

17. The configurable portable device according to claim 16, wherein
2 the sensing unit is configured and arranged to collect biometric data from a
user.

18. The configurable portable device according to claim 17, wherein
2 the sensing unit is configured and arranged to collect fingerprint data.

19. The configurable portable device according to claim 17, wherein
2 the sensing unit is configured and arranged to collect voice data.

20. The configurable portable device according to claim 16, wherein
2 the access terminal is configured and arranged to transmit the user identification
token over a wireless communications link associated with a cellular network for
4 wireless communications.

21. The configurable portable device according to claim 16, further
2 comprising a plurality of number assignment modules,
wherein the set of configuration information indicates a selected one
4 among the number assignment modules.

22. The configurable portable device according to claim 16, further
2 comprising a display interface,
wherein a configuration of the display interface is determined by the set
4 of configuration information.

23. A network comprising:
2 an access network configured and arranged to receive a user
identification token from a portable device;

4 a template database configured and arranged to store a plurality of user
templates;

6 a configuration information database configured and arranged to
retrievably store a plurality of sets of configuration information, each set

8 corresponding to one among the user templates; and

a pattern matcher coupled to the access network and configured and
10 arranged to detect a correspondence between the user identification token and
one among the plurality of user templates and to retrieve the set of configuration
12 information corresponding to the user template.

24. The network according to claim 23, wherein the pattern matcher is
2 configured and arranged to detect a correspondence between biometric data of
the user identification token and one among the plurality of user templates.

25. The network according to claim 24, wherein the pattern matcher is
2 configured and arranged to detect a correspondence between fingerprint data of
the user identification token and one among the plurality of user templates.

26. The network according to claim 24, wherein the pattern matcher is
2 configured and arranged to detect a correspondence between voice data of the
user identification token and one among the plurality of user templates.

27. The network according to claim 23, wherein the pattern matcher is
2 configured and arranged to extract a set of features from the user identification

token and to detect a correspondence between the set of features and the one
4 among the plurality of user templates.

28. The network according to claim 23, wherein the access network is
2 further configured and arranged to receive a device identification token from the
portable device and to transmit a set of configuration information corresponding
4 to the device identification token.

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